

PATENTS: Amendment  
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following **listing of claims** replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for estimating shipboard stowage requirements ~~in terms of storeroom area and stowage aids~~, the [[said]] method comprising:

selecting plural stowage aid types, each said stowage aid type being characterized by a stowage aid net volume and a stowage aid footprint area;

estimating the total volume of items to be stored in each said stowage aid type;

estimating the total stowage aid deck area required for each said stowage aid type, said estimating of the total stowage aid deck area including calculating the estimated said total volume of items to be stored in each said stowage aid type, multiplied by the stowage aid footprint area, and divided by the stowage aid net volume;

establishing three longitudinal ship sections, said longitudinal ship sections being the forward ship section, the mid ship section, and the aft ship section;

selecting plural rectangular storeroom types, each said rectangular storeroom type being characterized by a storeroom area and lengthwise-widthwise storeroom dimensions, each said rectangular storeroom type differing from every other said rectangular storeroom type in at least one of said storeroom area and said lengthwise-widthwise storeroom dimensions;

Serial No. 10/826,790

Page 8 of 29

PATENTS: Amendment

designating a sectional percentage for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said sectional percentage being the percentage of total rectangular storerooms of said rectangular storeroom type that are in said longitudinal ship section;

estimating a compartment utilization factor for each said ~~providing a database of extents of accommodativeness by~~ rectangular storeroom type storerooms with respect to at least one stowage aid type, wherein as to each said stowage aid type said database indicates variation in said extents of accommodativeness by at least two said rectangular storerooms having the same geometric area but different lengthwise widthwise dimensions, said compartment utilization factor being indicative of the capacity of said rectangular storeroom type to contain at least one said stowage aid type, said compartment utilization factor being defined in terms of the net volume of said rectangular storeroom type, divided by the gross volume of said rectangular storeroom type; and

estimating the total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said estimating of the total storeroom deck area including summing calculations of the estimated said total stowage aid deck area required for each said stowage aid type, multiplied by the designated said sectional percentage for each said rectangular storeroom type, and divided by the estimated said compartment utilization factor for each said rectangular storeroom type and based on said database, relating an amount of stowage aids to a storeroom area that is accommodative of said stowage aids.

Serial No. 10/826,790

Page 9 of 29

PATENTS: Amendment

Claims 2-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer program product ~~for residence in memory of a computer, said computer program product being for evaluating what is required for storing items,~~ said computer program product comprising a computer readable storage useable medium having computer readable program code portions ~~logic~~ recorded thereon for enabling a computer to evaluate shipboard stowage requirements, [[said]] the computer readable program code portions ~~logic~~ including:

a first executable portion, for enabling the computer to select plural stowage aid types, each said stowage aid type being characterized by a stowage aid net volume and a stowage aid footprint area, each said stowage aid type having the character of at least one of a rack, a bin, a drawer unit, a shelf unit, shelving, a locker, a cabinet, a reel, a clip, a jackrod, a batten, and a pallet;

a second executable portion, for enabling the computer to estimate the total volume of items to be stored in each said stowage aid type;

a third executable portion, for enabling the computer to estimate the total stowage aid deck area required for each said stowage aid type, said estimating of the total stowage aid deck area including calculating the estimated said total volume of items to be stored in each said stowage aid type, multiplied by the stowage aid footprint area, and divided by the stowage aid net volume;

a fourth executable portion, for enabling the computer to establish three longitudinal ship

Serial No. 10/826,790

Page 10 of 29

PATENTS: Amendment

sections, said longitudinal ship sections being the forward ship section, the mid ship section, and the aft ship section;

a fifth executable portion, for enabling the computer to select plural rectangular storeroom types, each said rectangular storeroom type being characterized by a storeroom area and lengthwise-widthwise storeroom dimensions, each said rectangular storeroom type differing from every other said rectangular storeroom type in at least one of said storeroom area and said lengthwise-widthwise storeroom dimensions;

a sixth executable portion, for enabling the computer to designate a sectional percentage for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said sectional percentage being the percentage of total rectangular storerooms of said rectangular storeroom type that are in said longitudinal ship section;

a seventh executable portion, for enabling the computer to estimate a compartment utilization factor for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said stowage aid type, said compartment utilization factor being indicative of the capacity of said rectangular storeroom type to contain at least one said stowage aid type, said compartment utilization factor being defined in terms of the net volume of said rectangular storeroom type, divided by the gross volume of said rectangular storeroom type; and

an eighth executable portion, for enabling the computer to estimate the total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said estimating of the total storeroom deck area including summing calculations of the estimated said total stowage aid deck area required for each said stowage aid type, multiplied

PATENTS: Amendment

by the designated said sectional percentage for each said rectangular storeroom type, and divided  
by the estimated said compartment utilization factor for each said rectangular storeroom type

~~means for enabling access to information as to the capabilities of differently sized~~  
~~compartments to accommodate stowage aids, each said compartment being characterized by an~~  
~~individual floor area and individual floor dimensions, said information including indication of~~  
~~different said capabilities in at least two said compartments that are characterized by the same~~  
~~said individual floor area but different said individual floor dimensions; and~~

~~means for enabling determination of at least one relationship between a total amount of~~  
~~said stowage aids and a total floor area accommodative of said total amount of said stowage aids.~~

Claims 16-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 1 wherein each said stowage aid type has the character of at least one of a rack, a bin, a drawer unit, a shelf unit, shelving, a locker, a cabinet, a reel, a clip, a jackrod, a batten, and a pallet.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 1 wherein the method is for assisting in the design of a ship, and wherein the method further comprises conveying or making available, to at least one participant in the design of a ship, information indicative of the estimated said total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal

Serial No. 10/826,790

Page 12 of 29

PATENTS: Amendment

ship section.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 1 wherein the method is a computer-implemented method, and wherein a computer is used for performing said selecting of said stowage aid types, said estimating of said total volume of said items to be stored, said estimating of said total stowage aid deck area required for each said stowage aid type, said establishing of said three longitudinal ship sections, said selecting of said rectangular storeroom types, said designating of said sectional percentage for each said rectangular storeroom type, said estimating of said compartment utilization factor for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said stowage aid type, and said estimating of said total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 23 wherein the method is for assisting in the design of a ship, and wherein the method further comprises conveying or making available, to at least one participant in the design of a ship, information indicative of the estimated said total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section.

Claim 25 (new): The method of claim 23, further comprising displaying information indicative of the estimated said total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section.

Serial No. 10/826,790

Page 13 of 29

PATENTS: Amendment

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 25 wherein the method is for assisting in the design of a ship, and wherein the method further comprises conveying or making available, to at least one participant in the design of a ship, information indicative of the estimated said total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section.

Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 1 wherein at least two said rectangular storeroom types are characterized by:

the same said storeroom area;

different said lengthwise-widthwise storeroom dimensions; and

different said compartment utilization factors with respect to the same said stowage aid type.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 1, further comprising estimating the total number of said rectangular storerooms of each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said estimating of the total number of said rectangular storerooms including calculating the estimated said total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, divided by said storeroom area.

Serial No. 10/826,790

Page 14 of 29

PATENTS: Amendment

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 28, further comprising upwardly adjusting the estimated said total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said upward adjustment including taking into consideration respective entranceways associated with at least some said rectangular storerooms of each said rectangular storeroom type.

Claim 30 (new): The computer program product of claim 15 wherein each said stowage aid type has the character of at least one of a rack, a bin, a drawer unit, a shelf unit, shelving, a locker, a cabinet, a reel, a clip, a jackrod, a batten, and a pallet.

Claim 31 (new): The computer program product of claim 15 wherein at least two said rectangular storeroom types are characterized by:

the same said storeroom area;

different said lengthwise-widthwise storeroom dimensions; and

different said compartment utilization factors with respect to the same said stowage aid type.

Claim 32 (new): The computer program product of claim 15, the computer readable program

Serial No. 10/826,790

Page 15 of 20



PATENTS: Amendment

code portions further including a ninth executable portion, for enabling the computer to estimate the total number of said rectangular storerooms of each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said estimating of the total number of said rectangular storerooms including calculating the estimated said total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, divided by said storeroom area.

Claim 33 (new): The computer program product of claim 32, the computer readable program code portions further including a tenth executable portion, for enabling the computer to upwardly adjust the estimated said total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said upward adjustment including taking into consideration respective entranceways associated with at least some said rectangular storerooms of each said rectangular storeroom type.

Claim 34 (new): An apparatus comprising a computer configured to perform a method for estimating shipboard stowage requirements, the method including:

selecting plural stowage aid types, each said stowage aid type being characterized by a stowage aid net volume and a stowage aid footprint area, each said stowage aid type having the character of at least one of a rack, a bin, a drawer unit, a shelf unit, shelving, a locker, a cabinet, a reel, a clip, a jackrod, a batten, and a pallet;

estimating the total volume of items to be stored in each said stowage aid type;

Serial No. 10/826,790

Page 16 of 29

PATENTS: Amendment

estimating the total stowage aid deck area required for each said stowage aid type, said estimating of the total stowage aid deck area including calculating the estimated said total volume of items to be stored in each said stowage aid type, multiplied by the stowage aid footprint area, and divided by the stowage aid net volume;

establishing three longitudinal ship sections, said longitudinal ship sections being the forward ship section, the mid ship section, and the aft ship section;

selecting plural rectangular storeroom types, each said rectangular storeroom type being characterized by a storeroom area and lengthwise-widthwise storeroom dimensions, each said rectangular storeroom type differing from every other said rectangular storeroom type in at least one of said storeroom area and said lengthwise-widthwise storeroom dimensions;

designating a sectional percentage for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said sectional percentage being the percentage of total rectangular storerooms of said rectangular storeroom type that are in said longitudinal ship section;

estimating a compartment utilization factor for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said stowage aid type, said compartment utilization factor being indicative of the capacity of said rectangular storeroom type to contain at least one said stowage aid type, said compartment utilization factor being defined in terms of the net volume of said rectangular storeroom type divided by the gross volume of said rectangular storeroom type; and

estimating the total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said estimating of the total storeroom deck

Serial No. 10/826,790

Page 17 of 29

PATENTS: Amendment

area including summing calculations of the estimated said total stowage aid deck area required for each said stowage aid type, multiplied by the designated said sectional percentage for each said rectangular storeroom type, and divided by the estimated said compartment utilization factor for each said rectangular storeroom type.

Claim 35 (new): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein each said stowage aid type has the character of at least one of a rack, a bin, a drawer unit, a shelf unit, shelving, a locker, a cabinet, a reel, a clip, a jackrod, a batten, and a pallet.

Claim 36 (new): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein at least two said rectangular storeroom types are characterized by:

the same said storeroom area;

different said lengthwise-widthwise storeroom dimensions; and

different said compartment utilization factors with respect to the same said stowage aid type.

Claim 37 (new): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said method further includes estimating the total number of said rectangular storerooms of each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said estimating of the total number of said rectangular

Serial No. 10/826,790

Page 18 of 29

PATENTS: Amendment

storerooms including calculating the estimated said total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, divided by said storeroom area.

Claim 38 (new): The apparatus of claim 37 wherein said method further includes upwardly adjusting the estimated said total storeroom deck area required for each said rectangular storeroom type with respect to each said longitudinal ship section, said upward adjustment including taking into consideration respective entranceways associated with at least some said rectangular storerooms of each said rectangular storeroom type.

Serial No. 10/826,790

Page 19 of 29

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